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THE SPECTATOR

ENTERPRISING operators of canning factories in the east are about to start a brand new industry, the canning of jackrabbit meat, which laboratory tests have revealed has considerable food value. The product is expected to do much to relieve the shortage of beef, pork, etc., and can be readily used as sandwich filler. Thus does necessity give birth to another invention. For years it has been the custom in the west to have jackrabbit drives, the fecundity of the animal being such as to make it a pest unless some measure was taken to keep it down. Now, thousands of tons of edible flesh, which has been wasted in the past, will be turned to good account. Already one factory has put in a bid for 2,000,000 rabbits at 15 cents apiece. The flesh will go to the tables, the fur will be used in making hats, and the refuse will make fertilizer.

The state of Kansas thinks an adequate supply of jackrabbits can be found within her borders to meet present requirements, and the Salina Journal pertinently inquires "Why should Kansas jackrabbits be canned in the east? Why don't the factories move out to where the rabbits are?"

This is a consistent query to come from the Sunflower state, which so nobly supported the party of protection in the November elections. Probably the same Kansans who propound that question will soon be asking the Democratic party this question, for example: "Why should American cotton be woven in Europe or Japan? Why didn't the factories move to the country where the cotton is?" Because the Kansas farmer knows that the more industrial activity and prosperity there is in the United States, the greater is the home market for Kansas corn and wheat. And, by the way, Kansas' contribution to the food supply this year would give every man, woman and child in the United States one bushel of wheat. Suppose the industrial depression of 1914, caused by Democratic tariff tinkering, were on now, and the Russian wheat supply were meeting European needs? Would not the Kansans be burning their grain as they did in '94?

THE aftermath of the Bemis-Hogle-Dixon bet on Walker Mining, the former betting that it would sell for \$5 a share on the Salt Lake Stock Exchange preceding January 1, and the others taking the other end of the pro-

position brought forth a sheaf of affidavits during the week from those who took part in the transactions.

However, the governing board has taken no action looking to the punishment of those who made the bets, or on account of trading indulged in after the board sessions.

To those who know all parties, the affidavits are hardly necessary. There was no question about there being bona-fide purchases, and none was raised except by those who were making a strenuous endeavor to keep the stock down.

Following the melee, W. M. Havenor, poet lariat of the exchange, sent a few lines to Mr. Bemis which explains by inference at least what most people think about the squawk that went up when the stock reached \$5. Dad Havenor's meter is a little out of order but the sentiment is fine. It reads:

I lost our bet, you won it fair,
A new suit of clothes you now can wear;
I do not pike as others do,
And when I lose, I sure come through.

Among other convincing exhibits of Mr. Bemis is a statement of Hogle & Co., to E. W. Griffiths for the purchase of 500 shares of Walker at \$5 on December 7, though no stock changed hands at that price on the board that day.

George Baglin's affidavit of purchase states that he bought 200 shares from S. S. Pond and 100 shares from E. M. West, that said purchases were made without any previous arrangements or understandings expressed or implied, and that they were bona-fide purchases made for his client at \$5 per share plus commission.

Mr. Pond and Mr. West confirm their in their affidavits. But the losers are still squealing, though they are getting little sympathy from the good sports who pay promptly when luck or the market is against them.

The installation of one more private wire to some perfectly good prophet, seer, or revelator might be of assistance in the future in eliminating the necessity for a squawk record on the office phonograph.

IT is reported that the regional director of railroads will order all trains to come into the Short Line station, and now that the war is over, and there is not so much need for concentration, the order should be forgotten and both sta-

tions used. If continued in force, it will look very much like a political play, with the property holders, ecclesiastical and otherwise at the head of the street the beneficiaries.

We wonder what the property owners, and real estate people generally along Third South and the lower part of the business district of Main street are thinking about. It is time for them to wake up, before their investments suffer further from the existing state of affairs.

W. J. Halloran would be the proper man to head a movement looking to the interests of those whose money in real estate is tied up in that part of town, and something should be done without delay, for the discrimination is most unjust except when possibly warranted by war conditions.

There isn't a reason in the world why the assets of those who have made improvements in the lower part of the city should be depleted by an arbitrary and unnecessary ruling, and it is time for property owners to act.

John Cook, custodian of the capitol building and state factory inspector, and Brother Siddoway, state fish and game commissioner, have been extremely busy lately flying around the state interfering in legislative matters. They are particularly active in spreading their propaganda against some leading Democrats not in entire accord with the machine, taking the opportunity their positions afford them to travel to overlook no chances to line up the legislators about to arrive, in the right alley.

Which reminds us that this legislature will probably abolish the office of state fish and game commissioner, making each custodian in the various districts the chief of his district in complete charge of all matters coming under his supervision. That would be an excellent idea. There is no real need of a head commissioner if those under him now do their duty, especially one who pays more attention to the open season in politics than in safeguarding the other lame ducks.

Ronald Tilton of the National City Bank of New York has arrived to make his home here, and for the present is at the Hotel Utah.

Mr. Tilton represents the bond department of the great bank, and his coming to Salt Lake as the intermountain representative of such an institution is very significant considering the era of prosperity predicted for this region with the readjustment following the war.

While Denver, and cities on the coast, and in the north have proven profitable fields for the bond business, few representatives of the larger concerns have ever made their headquarters here, and that a financial house of the importance of the National City Bank should send a representative, is a very encouraging sign.

Frank Cook is very much offended because we failed to mention him in the Bankers and Brokers edition published a week ago. Lack of space and

for the reason that we haven't yet accumulated sufficient data to make his story as interesting as we would like to have it, prevented the mention, but we apologize, and assure him that he will not be overlooked next time.

THE BRITISH TELEPHONE SYSTEM

The Tragedy of Government Ownership.

By Herbert N. Casson.

BRITISH business men, who have visited America, are greatly surprised to hear that the Bell system of telephoning has been taken over by the government and is now being operated as a by-product of the post-office.

Here in England we know full well what government telephoning means. We know by costly experience that the postalization of the telephone system is as absurd as the running of railroads by carters, or the operation of the Cunard Co. by fishermen.

Here in England we appreciate the abilities of Theodore N. Vall, and Union N. Bethell and J. J. Carty, and the other creators of the profession of telephoning. We have never had any such men in Great Britain;—and as a result, our British telephone system is today at least twenty years behind the Bell system in completeness and efficiency.

To give the exact figures, the United States possesses 66 per cent of the telephones of the world and Great Britain possesses less than 5 per cent. There are more telephones in New York City and Chicago than there are in England, Wales and Scotland. In proportion to population, the rate is about six to one in favor of America.

There has been absolute government ownership of telephones in Great Britain since 1911. The government promised to reduce rates and to improve the system.

On the contrary, after seven years of hopeless muddling, we have higher rates, fewer telephones and a service that will soon be as bad as that of Paris or Tokio.

I paid last year \$136, a flat rate, for unlimited service, for one office telephone. This is an increase, under government ownership, of \$66 a year. The rates are almost doubled. And there are 500 fewer telephones in London today than there were in 1914.

Also, when I ordered a telephone in my house, I secured it by persistent effort in 136 days; whereas the average time required in New York is, I believe, four and a half days.

Shortly before the war, the British government sent 1,000 letters to Londoners, asking them if they were satisfied with the telephone service. The unanimously replied in the negative; and 880 said that postal management had proved to be a failure.

In 1913 there were 51,043 complaints in London alone, from irritated telephone-users, 1,000 a week. One London hotel complained that out of 3,000 calls, 700 were ineffective.

The entire British system of telephoning was worth only \$115,000,000 before the war. Today it is worth